

Blackpool

Football Club

Official Match Magazine



LEAGUE
DIVISION FOUR

Friday, 9th April, 1982

WIGAN ATHLETIC

Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

PRICE
30p

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THE Allan Brown COLUMN

Dear Supporters,

I know you will all join me today in welcoming Wigan Athletic for their first-ever League visit to Bloomfield Road. I can promise you that if today's match is in any way comparable to the fixture last week at Springfield Park, then it will keep all of you on your seats' edge.

I have, of course, a special affection for Wigan, as I had my first management job there when I came out of the Football League. Wigan had ambitions then, and I'm glad to see that their drive eventually paid off when they were admitted to the League.

This season, they've been among the high-fliers, and have had quite good support. They've not been afraid to spend money, either, as we've seen with their £65,000 deal with Everton for Eamonn O'Keefe, and this is the kind of confident planning that should see the Latics in the Third Division next term.

That is not to say that they're going to have an easy time of it here. At Wigan, we gave them two silly goals, but had two chances to pull them back. If our goal had come a bit earlier, I think we might have done it, too, as they were very rattled.

So . . . the stage is set for a fascinating match. Let's hope we can all find something to savour from today!

Allan Brown



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Welcome to Bloomfield Road



WIGAN ATHLETIC FOOTBALL CLUB PEN PICTURES SEASON 1981/1982

JOHN McMAHON (Full Back). Newly acquired from Crewe Alexandra during the close season, John has already featured prominently in Wigan's pre-season friendly fixtures. His experience gained with Preston North End and other Football League clubs has brought a more professional look to Wigan's back four and his polished skills and keen positional sense have earned the praise of Wigan's critical fans. John has well over 300 Football League appearances to his credit and is expected to be a key figure in the Springfield Park club's push for promotion.

LARRY LLOYD (Central Defender/Player Manager). Appointed in the second half of last season as player/manager, this battle hardened English international has already brought a more professional approach to the play of the side under his control. A fierce competitor, with over 400 Football League games to his credit, and a wealth of experience acquired with Bristol Rovers, Liverpool, Coventry City and Nottingham Forest, Larry Lloyd expects great things this year.

COLIN METHVEN (Central Defender). Manager Ian McNeill's deep knowledge of Scottish football enabled him to search out this strong and positive player who became Wigan's record signing of £30,000 from East Fife in October, 1979. It was soon obvious that the money had been well-spent, for Colin, good in the air and strong in the tackle, soon took over as Captain of the Wigan side and led his men to glory in Wigan's great F.A. Cup run, season 1979-1980.

ALEX CRIBLEY (Midfield). After considerable Central League experience with Liverpool Football Club, Alex joined Wigan Athletic at the end of October, 1980, and then proceeded to play every game through to the end of the season. A determined customer, who is equally at home in the back four as he is in midfield.

CLIVE EVANS (Midfield). Joined Wigan in the close-season from Tranmere Rovers for a sizeable fee, having already completed over 150 Football League appearances and scored over 30 goals for the Merseyside club.

GRAHAM BARROW (Midfield). Another close-season signing from Alliance Premier League side, Altrincham. A strong, aggressive player, who, once he adjusts to the demands of full-time football, should prove an asset as Wigan Athletic set their stall out to gain promotion.

DAVID GLENN (Winger). Wigan Athletic's first apprentice after their elevation to the Football League, local boy David has been the revelation of the pre-season games. Not only has this talented youngster performed well in his customary wing role, he also turned in excellent performances in the left back position against both Walsall and Sheffield Wednesday.

MIKE QUINN (Forward). After battling his way through from the Wigan Athletic Youth XI and the Reserves, Mike made his mark as the Club's leading goal-scorer in the 1980-1981 Football League campaign. He has gone from strength to strength in the pre-season games, notching double figures against a variety of opposition from non-league to Football League Division 1 levels.

LES BRADD (Forward). A player of vast experience, with over 500 Football League appearances and more than 150 goals, Les is expected to bring all the knowledge acquired at Rotherham United, Notts County and Stockport County to the Wigan Athletic attack.

PETER HOUGHTON (Forward). After showing a great deal of promise in Wigan Athletic's first two seasons in League Football, Peter struggled last year against a series of nagging injuries and inconsistent form.

DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION NEWS

(with Commercial Manager Franny Ward)



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TODAY'S TEAM MASCOTS



BLACKPOOL
Stephen Morrell of Lyddesdale Avenue, Anchorsholme. Age 10 years. Attends Anchorsholme School, East Pines. Plays football for Centaur F.C. as goalkeeper. Favourite player Ray Clemence.



WIGAN ATHLETIC
Peter Hackett, aged 14 years. Attends St. Peter of Orrell School. His hobbies are football, jogging and watching Wigan Athletic. His favourite players are Peter Houghton, Clive Evans and Alex Cribbley.

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Congratulations are very much in order for Liverpool despite their European Cup disappointment in Bulgaria. That setback should not mar the achievement of retaining the League Cup, just as the manner of their victory over Spurs vindicated the changes introduced this season into the country's most consistent team.

Yet only a few hours before the Kick Off at Wembley Bob Paisley told me of his worries that such an occasion might sap the energies of his younger players who were facing a major final for the first time.

It's now history of course that Ronnie Whelan refused to be intimidated by nerves. His endeavour had already made him my man of the match before he contributed the first of his two goals. Ian Rush, also in his first Wembley final, popped up with the third for Liverpool's curtain call, incidentally their hundredth goal of the season.

A sadder note recently came when I had to commentate on the sending off of Trevor Francis against Everton. His manager John Bond hit the nail on the head when he talked of the England Striker's frustration at his injury problems, and an inability to quickly put his game back together against Howard Kendall's side.

Trevor struck the bar with a header shortly before he had that uncharacteristic moment when he lost his self control. "If I'd scored then I'd never have got sent off", he admitted to

me. The dismissal broke the mood of what had been a splendid contest. Kevin Bond had struck a thirty-yarder for Manchester City, an answer to his critics. A minute earlier Adrian Heath had decisively finished a superb move to instigate an argument amongst his team-mates. Which was the better effort? Heath's at Maine Road? or that volley that Match Time cameras also recorded by Graeme Sharp against Spurs?

One or two goals of any description will be gratefully accepted by Bolton Wanderers as they face a stern examination to retain their Second Division status.

Yet so much of their plight has been self-inflicted. Look at this catalogue of disaster...

SEPT. 12th at Barnsley: Brian Kidd sent off in a 0-3 defeat.

NOV. 14th at Shrewsbury: Kidd penalty saved, Mick Bennett own goal. Beaten 0-2.

NOV. 28th at Crystal Palace: A Paul Jones own goal is responsible for a 0-1 loss.

JAN. 30th at Oldham: Mike Doyle marks his debut with an own goal. Bolton draw 1-1.

FEB. 23rd at Newcastle: Doyle sent off, Bolton lose 0-2.

MARCH 20th at home to Norwich City: Jones misses a penalty then puts through his own goal. Norwich win 1-0.

Amateur Scene

The recent cash crisis at Bloomfield Road has hastened the need for local amateur talent to be used in the Central League side. It was to have been a gradual process next season to seek out the cream of the Fylde and allow them the opportunity to show their ability.

Two players who I'm sure would have come into the reckoning are unfortunately unavailable, one being defender Paul Dawson who has just signed a short term contract with Winsford, the other being John Gerrard who, as mentioned last week, is in America and scored the winning semi final goal for the Armenians. The midweek games shouldn't pose any problems. However on Saturdays a lot of goodwill will be required for players to be available especially if the club are in line for honours. I fervently hope the local lads do get the chance and possibly unearth some much needed talent at a cost far removed from the normal cost of a new player.

The first occasion there was a call for them last Saturday they did everyone proud beating Preston 2-0. The first goal was scored by schoolboy Neil Bramhall who plays Sunday football with Warwick. Graham Taylor, the Marklynn player, scored the second. Another Marklynn player was David Drinkwater whose long career with Wrens was shelved because of business at the beginning of the season. Highbury's leading scorer Norman Moran had a good game as did his old clubmate Stuart Robinson, when with Gardeners Arms, who also turned out for the reserve earlier in the season. Ronnie Stanley, once on Wolves books as an apprentice, also came out of the game with a lot of credit.

Latus Central operate two teams in the Alliance. What was Central gained a sponsor when that very good friend of local football, Neil Latus from Latus Sports, stepped in. The first team have as its secretary midfield player Paul Douglas, who as a junior was on Wolves books but his career was hindered by a recurring knee injury. Long serving committee man is treasurer Peter Kerrone. First team keeper is the very reliable Neil Singleton. At full back is captain Lawrie Croft who plays his Saturday football with the successful Blackpool Rangers outfit. Phil Wiper is right back and completing the defensive set-up are Jimmy Neilson and Ricky Longden. Bob Smith, Malcolm Dugdale and John Currie form a strong midfield and supply one of the top forwards locally for a number of years namely Glen Ankers and one of the younger stars of the Fylde, winger Andy 'Skike' Kirkham who plays for Lancaster on Saturdays.

Steve Wignall captains the second team from the back and has in the team an unusual combination of father and son in midfield. Long serving player Tony Mulberry, who is the assistant manager of the Junior Alliance under-16 side, has alongside him in midfield his son Alan Mulberry who played for the Alliance under-16 side. Goalkeeper is Bob Ellwood whilst at the back is another stalwart Harold Warburton who is ably assisted by Michael Andrews and Philip Fletcher. Jeffrey Hall is in midfield whilst secretary Harry Taberner can be seen either at the back or in midfield. Up front operating on the right side is Mark Bowyer whilst on the left is George Dickson.

PETER COLLINS

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A warm welcome to players, officials and supporters of Wigan Athletic F.C. for this Good Friday's local derby. The result of the game at Springfield Park ten days ago was a 2-1 win for Wigan, Willie Morgan scoring 'Pool's goal from the penalty spot.

Wigan Athletic were formed in 1932 after Wigan Boro' were voted out of the League. Before joining the Football League Wigan played in the Cheshire League, Lancashire Combination and the Northern Premier League. Wigan were elected to the Fourth Division in 1978 replacing Southport F.C. This is Wigan's fourth season in the League and they have finished sixth twice, and last season they were eleventh. The two clubs have met in the F.A. Cup in 1979-80, the first game at Blackpool ended in a 1-1 draw, Stan McEwan getting 'Pool's goal. Blackpool's team that day was: Hesford, Gardner, Pashley, Thompson, Ashurst, McEwan, Hockaday, Doyle, Spence, Kellow, Weston. Attendance over 11,000. The replay took place the following Wednesday. The result was a 2-0 win for Wigan. Attendance was 14,500. Blackpool made one team change for the replay, it was Wayne Harrison for Max Thompson. Wigan went on to the Fourth Round before losing to Everton 3-0. Blackpool have never met Wigan in the League Cup.

Ex-'Pool players to play for Wigan have been Frank Corrigan, Bob Ward, John Curtis, Jimmy Weston, Larry Lloyd, ex-Bristol Rovers, Liverpool, Coventry, Nottingham Forest and England player is the current Boss of 'The Latics'.

ENTERTAINMENT

There will be entertainment on this Easter in the Supporters Club starting tomorrow night with 'Logic' and on Sunday it's a group called Mr. Jinks. Visitors are most welcome in the club along with children over 5 years old.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

The Supporters Club Player of the Year Night will be held in the club on Saturday, 8th May. More details will be given in the next home programme.

DOMINOES

The Supporters Domino Team were knocked out in the Semi-finals of the League's Cup, losing 7-6 to the Shovels 'A' who are top of the League. But the Team are in fourth place in the League at the moment.

SNOOKER

Here are the latest results from the Supporters Clubs two snooker teams. The 'A' Team had a good 8-2 home win against Stanley Cons. and remain fifth in the League, while the 'B' Team stay bottom of the League after losing 9-1 to Central, Steve Benson was the only winner.

AWAY TRAVEL

Any fans wishing to travel to Tranmere tomorrow should book with Dave or Ozzie in the club this evening. Price is £2, depart 11.30 a.m.

PAUL LAVERY

TODAY'S REFEREE

KENNETH W. BAKER (Rugby). Commenced refereeing in 1959. Was appointed to the Football League line in 1967 and has been on the full list for several years. Linesman in the Northern Ireland v. Wales match (1975), also the Fulham v. Birmingham City F.A. Cup Semi-Final Replay. In 1977 was linesman for the Charity Shield match between Manchester United and Liverpool and refereed the F.A. Trophy Final in 1980.

Married, with four children, he is Security and Services Executive at the National Exhibition Centre. For 12 years he served with the Metropolitan and Warwickshire Police Forces rising to a Detective Inspector. Is President of the Rugby and District Referees' Association and Chairman of both the Rugby and District Junior League, and the Football League Referees' and Linesmen's Association (Midlands Section). Plays tennis for the local police team.

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Pics by Phil Heywood



Above: Andy McAvoy sends in a fierce drive.

Below: Wigan's Larry Lloyd clears from John Deary.



PRESS BOX



IT'S ALWAYS a pleasure to hear from H. Ellis Tomlinson, whose blazing enthusiasm for football is only matched by his talent for languages and his expertise in heraldry . . . and Mr Tomlinson, of Victoria Road East, Thornton, was not slow to respond to the events of the same weekend I had written about referees being reluctant to send off more than one player from a team.

"You have the answer today", wrote Mr Tomlinson. "Both Fenwick and Micklewhite of QPR were dismissed at Rotherham".

He reminds me that what is probably a League record was set up at Blackpool in 1975-76 when THREE Oxford United players were sent off, including the usually impeccable Houseman, soon afterwards to be tragically killed in a car crash.

"Perhaps it is significant that in both these cases, the offenders were on the visiting side."

"Possibly your thought was in the context of the dismissal of two HOME players causing crowd trouble (i.e. if Corrigan had followed Francis). In any case, I don't think any referee of any stature in any league would hesitate to send two, three, or any number of players off if they deserved it.

"One might, of course, suspect his competence in allowing the situation to deteriorate to that extent".

Perfectly, true, Mr Tomlinson. It all proves, of course, that the men in the middle are mere mortals, subject to measures of competence as well as incompetence — and I've seen both this season as I roam around England in search of a soccer match to savour.

I can go back a few seasons to find an example of refereeing courage (or foolhardiness, if you look at it another way) — and that was the infamous Boxing Day clash at Bloomfield Road when two HOME players were sent off in a very festive match with Burnley.

Kevin Tully won't need reminding that he marched on his League debut, and Blackpool's Terry Alcock was also sent off.

It is, naturally, no consolation to recall that the real offender in the Tully incident stayed on the field . . .

There are good referees and there are bad referees, and regrettably these days we do not always get the cream of the League list at

Bloomfield Road. But I have seen some of the so-called stellar performers perpetrate some astounding gaffes.

I often wonder why people take up refereeing. It's the most thankless job in football . . . and is much worse now, with TV analysis magnifying the flaws. Pressures on match officials have grown in proportion to those of the players, but the rewards have not.

And one thing we always forget about the men in the middle . . . the referee might often be wrong — but he is ALWAYS right!

PETER BAXTER

Features Editor, Evening Gazette

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Central League
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SATURDAY, 17th APRIL

League Division Four
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Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

SATURDAY, 24th APRIL

Central League
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Wigan Ath.	38	22	10	6	68	41	76
Sheffield U.	36	21	11	4	70	34	74
Peterborough	36	22	8	6	62	37	74
Bradford C.	37	21	10	6	71	36	73
Bournemouth	37	19	14	4	47	25	71
Colchester	37	17	9	11	70	46	60
Bury	35	15	12	8	65	43	57
Port Vale	37	14	14	9	47	41	56
Hull City	35	14	8	13	57	50	50
BLACKPOOL	36	13	10	13	57	47	49
Hereford	35	10	15	10	46	48	45
Torquay U.	36	11	11	14	37	42	44
Tranmere R.	38	9	17	12	39	47	44
Aldershot	37	11	11	15	46	57	44
Darlington	37	11	11	15	45	51	44
Hartlepool	37	10	13	14	57	65	43
Mansfield	37	11	9	17	53	64	42
Stockport C.	36	10	8	18	38	57	38
Northampton	38	10	7	21	52	72	37
Halifax T.	35	6	17	12	39	53	35
Rochdale	35	7	13	15	38	47	34
York City	35	9	6	20	48	79	33
Scunthorpe	37	8	9	20	35	67	33
Crewe Alex.	37	6	7	24	22	56	25



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Oct. 10	Torquay United		Yellow Bird Restaurant, Poulton
Oct. 24	Port Vale		Tangerine Nite Spot
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Nov. 14	AFC Bournemouth	Fleet Builders Limited	Michael Denny-London Supporter
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Jan. 23	Queen's Park Rangers (FA Cup 4)	St. Annes Travel	Longfellow Office Supplies
Jan. 30	Darlington		Fylde Coast Gate Co.
Feb. 10	Rochdale		Malcolm Lord-The Sun Inn
Feb. 13	Mansfield Town		Sheraton Hotel
Feb. 17	Northampton Town		United Printing Services, Blackpool
Mar. 3	Bradford City	Blackpool & Fylde Sun. Football Alliance	Fylde Coast Gate Co.
Mar. 6	Aldershot		John Allen
Mar. 10	York City	Fylde Butchers Supplies	Jim Kelly
Mar. 20	Sheffield United		Latus Sports
Mar. 27	Peterborough United		River Wyre Hotel
April 9	Wigan Athletic		United Printing Services, Blackpool
April 17	Colchester United		Fylde Coast Gate Co.
May 1	Hereford United		Wimpy Fast Food, Bank Hey Street
May 15	Hartlepool United		Mr. McClure

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